UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1995/L.3
7 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND
COORDINATION
Thirty-fifth session
15 May-9 June 1995
Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination held an organizational meeting (1st meeting) at United Nations Headquarters on 21 April 1995 and its thirty-fifth session at United Nations Headquarters from 15 May to 9 June 1995. It held ... meetings (2nd to ... meetings) and a number of informal meetings.

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the thirty-fifth session, adopted by the Committee at its first meeting, is reproduced in annex I below.

3. In adopting the agenda, the Committee, in accordance with the decision taken at its organizational meeting for 1995, decided to consider, at its thirty-fifth session, the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Review and assessment of efforts to restructure the regional dimension of United Nations economic and social activities" (A/49/423). At its second meeting, on 15 May 1995, the Committee decided to consider also the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system" (A/50/126-E/1995/20), as well as the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon (A/50/126/Add.1-E/1995/20/Add.1).

B. Attendance

4. The following States members of the Committee were represented:

Argentina
Bahamas
Belarus
Benin
Brazil
Cameroon
Canada
China
Congo
Cuba
Egypt
France
Germany
Ghana
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Japan
Mexico
Netherlands
Nicaragua
Norway
Pakistan
Republic of Korea
Romania
Russian Federation
Senegal
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America

5. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Afghanistan
Algeria
Australia
Austria
Belgium
Botswana
Bulgaria
Chile
Costa Rica
Finland
Italy
Ireland
Kazakstan
Latvia
Mongolia
New Zealand
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
Uruguay

6. The following non-member State was represented by an observer: Switzerland.

7. The following specialized agencies were represented:

International Labour Organization
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
World Health Organization
International Monetary Fund

8. Also present at the session were senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat. At the invitation of the Committee, Mr. Fatih Bouayad Agha, President of the Joint Inspection Unit, also participated in its work.

C. Documentation

9. The list of documents before the Committee at its thirty-fifth session is set forth in annex II below.

D. Adoption of the report of the Committee

10. At its ... and ... meetings, on 9 June 1995, the Committee adopted the draft report on its thirty-fifth session (E/AC.51/1995/L.3 and Add.1-32).

ANNEX I

Agenda for the thirty-fifth session of the Committee

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

4. Programme questions:

   (a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997;

   (b) Evaluation.

5. Coordination questions: report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-sixth session of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-fifth session.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the Committee at its thirty-fifth session

E/AC.51/1995/1	Annotated provisional agenda
A/50/6	Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997
	Introduction and overview
	Section 1 Overall policy-making, direction and coordination
	Section 2 Political affairs
	Section 3 Peace-keeping operations and special missions
	Section 4 Outer space affairs
	Section 6 Legal activities
	Section 7A Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development
	Section 7B Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development
	Section 8 Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis
	Section 9 Department for Development Support and Management Services
	Section 10A United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
	Section 10B International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT
	Section 11 United Nations Environment Programme
	Section 12 United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
	Section 13 Crime control
	Section 14 International drug control
	Section 15 Economic Commission for Africa

	Section 16	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
	Section 17	Economic Commission for Europe
	Section 18	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
	Section 19	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
	Section 20	Regular programme of technical cooperation
	Section 21	Human rights
	Section 22	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
	Section 23	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
	Section 24	Department of Humanitarian Affairs
	Section 25	Public information
E/AC.51/1995/2 and Corr.1	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the final report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of peace-keeping operations: start-up phase	
E/AC.51/1995/3 and Corr.1	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on environment	
E/1995/21	Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1994	
A/49/423	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Review and assessment of efforts to restructure the regional dimension of United Nations economic and social activities"	
A/50/126-E/1995/20 and Add.1	Notes by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system" and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the report	

E/AC.51/1995/L.4	Provisional agenda for the thirty-sixth session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination
E/AC.51/1995/L.1/Rev.1	Note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation
E/AC.51/1995/L.2/Rev.1 and Add.1	Revised proposed programme of work

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the other hand, delegations stressed the need for CPC to give clear indications as to its documentation requirements, in terms of both substance and time-frames.

4. Delegations noted, for example, that the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) (E/1995/21), while providing valuable information on ACC proceedings, did not focus sufficiently on the coordination issues that were of primary concern to CPC. They also noted that CPC had previously drawn attention to that problem, in paragraph 159 of its report on the first part of the thirty-second session, 1/ where it stated:

> "... The report was considered too descriptive in nature. A more analytical and forward-looking report was required in order to facilitate the tasks and responsibilities regarding coordination of the respective organizations which were members of ACC. The Committee emphasized that the purpose of the report was to serve as an instrument to enable both Member States and ACC to identify and overcome problems in system-wide coordination."

5. Delegations stressed the importance of joint meetings between CPC and ACC as a unique forum for in-depth and concrete exchanges of views on coordination issues. They therefore emphasized the need for such meetings to concentrate on the coordination aspects of the subjects discussed at them.

6. Some delegations offered possible roles for CPC to consider in response to new emerging needs. In this context, the following proposals were made:

(a) To develop criteria for evaluating results against prescribed parameters;

(b) To state comparative advantages of agencies in addressing programme activities;

(c) To provide a sense of what had been accomplished versus what was expected;

(d) To consider zero-based analysis (value for money) and establishing realistic performance measures.

7. Several other delegations indicated that in any possible role played by CPC in examining new emerging needs, special consideration should be given to the following:

(a) Follow-up of the established rules and regulations;

(b) Consideration of activities whose objectives have not been met and identification of the obstacles that have been met in pursuance of those objectives;

(c) Review of possible duplication or overlapping of activities within the United Nations system;

(d) In any revision of the implementation of programmes, special emphasis should be given to the achievements made as compared with the difficulties encountered in achieving them, identifying their economic, political or financial aspects.

8. Some delegations referred to other bodies responsible for oversight and control as mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General and commented on how to improve coordination with ACABQ, JIU and the Board of Auditors, while taking care to avoid duplication of work. In that regard some delegations supported a term of office of six years for the members of the Board of Auditors.

Conclusions

9. The Committee considered that since it was the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council, it should be informed of the views and decisions of that body regarding reports that it had submitted in accordance with its mandate. The need for an adequate follow-up by the Council and its respective intergovernmental bodies was stressed.

10. The Committee recognized the need to pay more in-depth attention to its coordinating role, which should be based on substantive issues. To that end, the Committee considered that it required a more detailed insight into the efforts of ACC and other relevant departments of the United Nations in that respect.

11. The Committee considered that there should be careful preparation of joint CPC/ACC meetings. The structure and content of the joint meetings should, therefore, be determined in advance. The Committee also expressed the need to encourage dialogue through in-depth discussions, as opposed to orally delivered prepared statements.

12. The Committee stressed the need for the Secretariat to provide it regularly with complete and relevant documentation, including the decisions and resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on its reports and the memoranda on the implementation of resolutions, prepared by the Secretariat, after each session of the Assembly and the Council in accordance with paragraph 2 (a) (iii) of the annex to Council resolution 2008 (LX) on the terms of reference of the Committee.

13. The Committee agreed to review regularly its working methods and procedures.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/47/16), part one.

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Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1995/L.3/Add.2
8 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Part one

1. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 was introduced by the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management and by the Controller at the 10th meeting of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on 23 May 1995.

2. The Committee was informed that the paramount consideration in formulating the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 was to put forward a proposal that responded fully and in the most cost-effective manner to the mandates provided by Member States. The level of the resources proposed, in comparable terms, was lower than the revised appropriations for 1994-1995 and lower than the programme budget outline for the biennium 1996-1997. A determined effort had been made by programme managers to look for efficiency gains in the form of rationalization of work programmes, improvement in productivity and simplification of work procedures, and, as a result, there have been savings without affecting delivery of mandated activities. The Committee was informed that the Secretariat would continue to review overlapping and duplication of work.

3. The Committee was also informed that the distribution of resources was guided by the priority areas as identified in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised, 1/ and also by those reflected in the budget outline, namely, political affairs, international and regional cooperation for development, human rights, humanitarian affairs and internal oversight.

4. It was pointed out to the Committee that the new format of the budget included a self-contained part one, which gave a comprehensive picture without requiring reference to individual budget sections. New features included summaries of each budget section, additional information on expenditures for the biennium 1992-1993 and information on extrabudgetary expenditures and projections by object of expenditure.

5. At its 10th to 13th meetings, on 23 and 24 May, the Committee considered part one of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

6. Some delegations expressed concern for the reduction in the number of subprogrammes in the proposed programme budget and stressed the need for in-depth consideration of this issue during the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

7. A number of delegations welcomed the significant reduction in resource levels in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, which is to be achieved through maximum efforts at efficiency. Several other delegations recognized the increased demands being placed upon the Organization and stressed that a reduction in the budget should not be perceived as meaning a reduced role for the Organization and that such a reduction must not affect the proper implementation of all mandated programmes and activities. Those delegations expressed concern for the possible negative impact that the reductions could have on the implementation of programmes, in particular those in the economic area. A number of delegations were of the view that it was the responsibility of Member States to ensure that there were no discrepancies between mandates and resources, and emphasized that once the budget was approved it was essential for Member States to meet their financial obligations by paying their assessments in full, on time and without conditions.

8. Several delegations stressed the importance of strictly adhering to the priorities as set in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised, in particular with regard to African economic recovery and relevant programmes, mainly programme 45. Other delegations recalled that General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 required the Secretary-General, in preparing the biennial budgets, to indicate priorities, reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature, and were of the view that the priorities indicated in the proposed programme budget for biennium 1996-1997 were appropriate.

9. Some delegations questioned the appropriateness of including internal oversight among the priorities of a broad sectoral nature, emphasizing that it was not in itself a substantive activity of the Organization or a priority

agreed by the General Assembly, and stressed that they did not approve of the proposed increase in the budget for the Office of Internal Oversight Services at the expense of other mandated activities of the Organization. One delegation questioned the excessive and disproportionate increase in the budget for the Office, taking into account that this is not a priority decided on by the General Assembly. Many delegations regretted that the Secretariat did not take fully into consideration the views expressed by Member States when they considered the budget outline (A/49/310) during the forty-ninth session, and expressed their views that the Secretariat should strictly comply with decisions by Member States. Other delegations emphasized their support for the strengthening of the Office, which had an important role in all programmes and stressed the need for additional resources for that Office as proposed in the budget proposal.

10. Many delegations expressed concern at the proposed reduction in resources for development, despite this being a priority, and stressed the need to ensure adequate resources for development activities. Other delegations underlined in particular their support for the designation of human rights, humanitarian affairs, peace-making, preventive diplomacy and internal oversight as priorities. Some delegations felt that priorities like human rights and humanitarian affairs should be allotted more resources than proposed. Other delegations questioned proposals for the provision of additional resources for human rights and humanitarian affairs. Some delegations stressed that the programme of work for 1996-1997 should properly reflect all mandates of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, particularly the right to development. Some delegations also emphasized the need to ensure that the proposed budget for humanitarian affairs is in accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991.

11. Some delegations regretted that the Secretary-General proposed the transfer of posts from the peace-keeping support account to the regular budget without any legislative mandate. Those delegations emphasized the importance of equal treatment regarding the transfer of resources to be given to all sections of the budget. Other delegations emphasized that the Secretary-General was mandated to carry out backstopping of peace-keeping operations and that the proposed transfer of posts concerned only the method of financing, and was therefore a legitimate part of the budget proposal for the Department of Peace-keeping Operations.

12. Some delegations stressed that the Secretary-General did not have the mandate to propose the establishment at Vienna of a unit for the support of reconstruction and development in Central and Eastern Europe. They questioned some of the activities proposed to be carried out by that unit. Other delegations, however, emphasized that the Secretary-General had a mandate for those activities and expressed support for the transfer of the unit as a means to implement mandated activities in a more cost-effective manner. Several delegations noted that the Secretary-General's proposal referred to the establishment of a new office, while the Committee was informed by the representative of the Secretary-General that the intention was to transfer the Unit now at Geneva to Vienna. Therefore it was also stressed that clearer information was required. Some delegations emphasized that the activities

related to the reconstruction and development of Central and Eastern Europe should continue to be undertaken by ECE.

13. With regard to the activities not carried over from the current biennium to 1996-1997, amounting to $92.8 million, many delegations noted that those resources were for activities related to the preparation and convening of the global conferences that were held during the biennium 1994-1995, the completion of special missions such as UNOMSA, completion of apartheid activities and the completion of major construction in ECA.

14. Many delegations stressed that the decrease in the level of resources should not affect priority areas, the economic development of developing countries and, in particular, African economic recovery. These delegations stressed the need to increase the level of both regular budget and extrabudgetary resources in section 7B, Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development, and emphasized the importance of fully supporting programmes relating to Africa.

15. Many delegations stressed the importance of follow-up activities to all major conferences and expressed the view that the Secretary-General should make every effort to provide adequate resources for the follow-up to those Conferences. They noted that adequate resources for follow-up activities to the World Summit for Social Development, the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the Fourth World Conference on Women would be considered in the light of decisions by the General Assembly. Some delegations expressed concern that the absence of budgetary provision for these and other expected additional activities such as ad hoc missions, gave a misleading picture of the level of growth in the budget. Some delegations stressed the importance of improving coordination between the Department for Development Support and Management Services, the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis and the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, and indicated that the division of their responsibilities should be in accordance with their respective mandates.

16. Many delegations expressed concern at the negative impact of the restructuring process on the implementation of some programmes. Those delegations also emphasized that in search of efficiency a distinction has to be made as to the nature of the different activities. Other delegations welcomed the fact that the efficiency savings were the result of rationalization of work programmes, improvement of productivity related to investment in technological improvements, simplification of work procedures and reductions in external printing, travel, consultants, supplies, equipment and general operating expenses, and therefore would not have a negative impact on mandated activities.

17. A number of delegations questioned the level of consultancy resources and the necessity for outside expertise. They expressed concern in respect of the heavy reliance on consultants instead of using the services of available staff and in-house expertise.

18. A number of delegations noted that as a result of recosting, Member States would be assessed a higher nominal amount than for the 1994-1995 biennium.

Other delegations stated that this situation was totally logical, taking into account the recosting methodology presently used. One delegation stated that this would be unacceptable and urged that significantly greater savings be achieved for 1996-1997. Several delegations expressed their concern over the effect of the future recosting and stated that every effort should continue to be made to achieve cost-effectiveness with relation to additional activities which might emerge towards the end of this year.

Conclusions and recommendations

19. The Committee expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the Secretary-General to present a programme budget on time and took note of the new features in the format of the budget.

20. The Committee noted that the total amount of resources requested by the Secretary-General was below the level determined in the programme budget outline for the biennium 1996-1997, and noted also the Secretary-General's assurances that such a reduction would in no way affect the implementation of all mandated programmes and activities.

21. The Committee recommended that proposals for provision of resources in the programme budget for 1996-1997 should be derived from the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised, and legislative mandates adopted subsequent to the adoption of the medium-term plan or its last revisions.

22. The Committee took note of the methodology used to prepare the proposed programme budget.

23. The Committee noted the refinements in the presentation of the budget and recognized that the new format included additional features, particularly the presentation of extrabudgetary resources and their linkage with the regular budget, as requested previously by the Committee.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 and corrigendum (A/47/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1), vols. I and II.

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LIMITED

E/AC.51/1995/L.3/Add.3
8 June 1995

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Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 1. Overall policy-making, direction and coordination

1. At its 28th meeting, on 6 June, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 1, Overall policy-making, direction and coordination, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

2. Many delegations endorsed the structure of the section. Some delegations questioned the structure of that section and stressed that a number of bodies listed, such as the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and the Committee on Contributions, should not be considered policy-making organs but expert bodies rendering technical advice to the General Assembly and other main bodies.

3. Some delegations felt that proposed increases and decreases under the General Assembly, the Committee on Contributions, the United Nations Joint Pension Fund and the United Nations Board of Auditors should have been explained more fully in the proposal. One delegation felt that the level of resources provided for the Committee for Programme and Coordination, including staff

support, was not commensurate to its tasks. Another delegation stressed the importance of the functions of the President of the General Assembly and felt that resources should be allocated to enable him to take part in major events outside New York during his term in Office.

4. With regard to the provisions proposed for ACABQ, some delegations felt that the increase in the travel provision was excessive. A number of delegations queried the cost of airfares for spouses of members of ACABQ and stressed that the matter should be reviewed during the forthcoming session of the General Assembly.

5. Some delegations questioned the proposed increase in extrabudgetary posts, particularly since the staffing of the secretariat had already been augmented in 1992-1993. One delegation supported the level of resources for ACABQ and recalled the continued increase in the workload of the Committee as a result of reports requested by the General Assembly, in particular those related to peace-keeping operations. Some delegations stressed that additional posts for the ACABQ secretariat should be made available on a temporary basis.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee took note of the narrative of section 1, Overall policy-making, direction and coordination, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

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Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1995/L.3/Add.4
8 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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Thirty-fifth session
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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 2. Political affairs

1. At its 25th meeting, on 5 June 1995, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 2, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

2. Many delegations welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to streamline the Department of Political Affairs. Some delegations welcomed the overall substantial decrease in the resources proposed. Some delegations expressed concern as to whether sufficient resources had been proposed for activities relating to the Security Council.

3. Several delegations considered that resources allocated to the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples were excessive. Several other delegations expressed support for the level of resources proposed.

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/...

4. Some delegations suggested that the Department of Political Affairs review the narratives relating to subprogrammes 1, Special political questions, and 2, Regional, political and security cooperation, of programme 4, Special political questions, trusteeship and decolonization, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised, 1/ with a view to further streamlining and coordinating those activities and avoiding apparent overlap.

5. Some delegations supported the programme narrative of subprogramme 3, Trusteeship and decolonization, of programme 4, whose legislative mandate is based on resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and subsequent resolutions of the General Assembly on the item. Other delegations regarded the programme as a low priority.

6. Many delegations emphasized that the activities proposed to be carried out under subprogramme 4, Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections, with respect to provision of electoral assistance should in all cases be in the form of responses to requests made by Governments. Several delegations expressed their strong support for the role of the Electoral Assistance Division.

7. With respect to programme 7, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan many delegations stressed that additional resources should have been proposed for the regional centres in order to strengthen them. They regretted that the actual state of the centres did not allow them to undertake their activities in a satisfactory manner. Other delegations emphasized that the proposed increase for the programme of activities of the Conference on Disarmament was not adequate to carry out the mandated activities.

8. Many delegations welcomed the fact that the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People would remain until a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine had been achieved, expressed concern at the proposed decrease in resources for programme 5, and urged the Secretary-General to review the narrative of the programme with a view to reinstating the two posts proposed for suppression. Many other delegations expressed their support for the Secretary-General's proposed reduction on the understanding that it would not affect the quality of delivery of mandated activities.

9. One delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposal that activities related to the Office of the Coordinator of Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon (UNARDOL) should continue to be carried out and emphasized that this should be done by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) rather than by the resident coordinator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

10. Several delegations did not agree to the level of resources proposed for consultants and travel.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. The Committee recommended deletion of the phrase "the front-line States" in paragraph 2.48.1 (a) (iii) and the phrase "but not in Africa" in paragraph 2.104.3 (b).

12. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 2, Political affairs, as amended, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 and corrigendum (A/47/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1), vols. I and II.

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Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1995/L.3/Add.5
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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 3. Peace-keeping operations and special missions

1. At its 26th and 27th meetings, on 5 June, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 3, Peace-keeping operations and special missions, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

2. Many delegations welcomed the reorganization of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations and considered that it should improve the Department's capacity to meet the challenges facing it. Many delegations welcomed the streamlining of the support units for peace-keeping under the Field Administration and Logistics Division and stressed the importance of further improving the quality of services provided to troop-contributing countries, mainly in the areas of logistics and personnel. Many delegations stressed the difficulties encountered by troop-contributing countries, especially with regard to deaths and disability claims, troop reimbursement costs and related matters. Some delegations further emphasized the importance of mitigating, if not completely eliminating, the problems of troop- and equipment-contributing countries, as well as the problems relating to death and disability claims.

3. Many delegations emphasized the importance of effective public information support activities as a component of peace-keeping operations and felt that a mission information unit to backstop such field activities should have been included in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. Many other delegations said that no legislative mandate existed for the establishment of a mission information unit within the Department and underlined their support for the decision of the Secretary-General not to include a mission information unit in the budget proposal for the Department.

4. Many delegations supported the Secretary-General's proposal to transfer posts from the support account for peace-keeping operations to the regular budget as an appropriate reflection of the increase in the Department's core activities. Many other delegations regretted the Secretary-General's proposed transfer of posts, despite the debate on the matter in the General Assembly, and expressed opposition to the proposal as there was no specific legislative mandate in this respect. One delegation hoped there would be a clear decision on this issue at the next resumed session of the General Assembly. Another delegation suggested that the issue could be resolved during the General Assembly's consideration of the proposed programme budget.

5. Some delegations felt that the Secretary-General should have included financial provision in the proposed programme budget for unforeseen ad hoc missions, at a level commensurate with the requirements for such missions in the recent past. The representative of the Secretary-General recalled in this connection that, in his proposals for the programme budget outline for 1994-1995 (A/47/358), the Secretary-General had included such a financial provision. In its related report (A/47/7/Add.9), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions had recommended against the proposal, since, by their very nature, those activities were generally unpredictable and the experience gained in one biennium was not necessarily an indication of what would be encountered in the next. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee believed that the General Assembly, in its resolution on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses, had adequately provided for any unexpected activity. The Assembly had accepted this recommendation. It was on that basis that the Secretary-General had not included a similar proposal in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 3, Peace-keeping operations and special missions, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 4. Outer space affairs

1. At its 25th meeting, on 5 June 1995, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 4, Outer space affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

2. Several delegations queried the level of resources proposed for the section and expressed the view that additional information could have been provided with respect to the activities to be carried out and the level of resources proposed since, unlike other sections of the budget, no reductions or efficiency gains were proposed. Other delegations expressed their support for the proposals since the activities were devoted to priority questions of the Organization, as outlined in paragraph 4.2 of the programme narrative for the section. Several delegations stressed the important role of the activities in reducing the gap between the rich and the poor, and the technology gap between the developed and developing nations. Some delegations appreciated the work performed so far in that direction.

95-17062 (E) 080695 090695

3. Some delegations questioned the need for consultations and experts, while others queried the projected decrease in extrabudgetary resources for the programme and how the decrease would affect its capacity to assist developing countries. Some delegations stressed the need to provide more resources for consultants nd experts, especially in such a technical field.

4. Some delegations referred to the establishment and strengthening of regional centres of excellence for promoting cooperation in space technology and its peaceful application.

5. Some delegations questioned the increase of 2.3 per cent in budgetary allocations in the absence of clear objectives. Other delegations emphasized that more resources should be provided for the programmes and activities, which had a great potential for promoting growth and sustainable development.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 4, Outer space affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1995/L.3/Add.7
8 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-fifth session
15 May-9 June 1995
Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 6. Legal activities

1. At its 27th meeting, on 6 June 1995, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 6, Legal activities, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

2. Some delegations welcomed the significant reduction in the level of resources proposed for legal activities. Others felt that the reduction was more related to the completion of a number of activities than to increased efficiency.

3. A number of delegations considered that the proposed reduction in resources would not adversely affect the effectiveness of the Office of Legal Affairs. Other delegations emphasized that additional tasks assigned to the Office resulting from peace-keeping activities should be taken into account in that context.

4. One delegation expressed disappointment that efforts to convert the United Nations Treaty Information System database to CD-ROM had been unsuccessful. Further efforts to complete the computerization of the system during 1996-1997 were supported by a number of delegations, who anticipated that it would prove cost-effective and produce significant savings in the future.

5. One delegation suggested that consideration be given within the programme of work of the Office to providing assistance on legal issues related to peace-keeping operations to Member States with limited experience in the area.

6. Some delegations expressed concern about the excessive orientation of the workload towards peace-keeping activities, given that the Office had a very important role to play in other areas of United Nations activities.

7. The same delegations emphasized the importance of effective coordination between the Office of Legal Affairs and other departments and offices, and expressed concern that the reduction for external printing might adversely affect the availability of important publications, including the Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs.

8. Several delegations emphasized the importance of programme 2, Law of the sea and ocean affairs, with the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1994, and expressed concern as to whether the proposed level of resources would be sufficient to provide for the activities under the programme.

9. One delegation expressed support for completion of the draft code of crimes against peace and the security of mankind during 1996-1997.

10. One delegation questioned the use of the term "reform States" in paragraph 6.62.1 (a).

Conclusions and recommendations

11. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 6, Legal activities, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1995/L.3/Add.8
7 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-fifth session
15 May-9 June 1995
Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 7A. Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development

1. At its 14th and 15th meetings, on 25 May 1995, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 7A, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed concern that the proposed level of resources was not adequate to ensure the full and timely implementation of mandated activities as well as the follow-up activities that had emerged from the World Summit for Social Development and could be expected from the Fourth World Conference on Women. They noted the statement made by the Controller that the proposed programme budget section 7A did not include provision of resources for possible future mandated programmes and activities arising out of legislative decisions relating to the World Summit for Social Development or the Fourth World Conference on Women, and that if significant additional activities

were subsequently mandated, additional resources would need to be provided for their implementation. Other delegations welcomed the efforts to achieve efficiency savings as well as internal redeployment of resources to allow greater focus on priority programmes such as sustainable development.

3. Some delegations stressed the special importance they attached to the programme on eradication of poverty, in particular in the light of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and the objectives of the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty (1996).

4. A number of delegations expressed their support for the proposals concerning the follow-up activities related to the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and to Agenda 21.

5. Some delegations noted that adequate provision should be provided to the Department to ensure maximum outreach and contact with intergovernmental bodies on policy matters.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 7A, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, on the understanding that, should the Assembly adopt any new legislative mandates that established new programmes and activities, adequate resource provision would be proposed to the Assembly for its consideration at the time of its examining and approving the budget.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1995/L.3/Add.9
5 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-fifth session
15 May-9 June 1995
Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 7B. Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development

1. At its 15th meeting, on 25 May 1995, the Committee considered section 7B, Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations welcomed the submission by the Secretary-General of a separate section on Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development as requested by the General Assembly. Other delegations recalled their reservation on the question. Some delegations expressed the view that section 7B should comprise all the Africa-related activities of the Secretariat. Other delegations expressed concern that creation of a separate section 7B might diminish flexibility in and adequate accountability and control over the implementation of mandated activities, and supported the Secretary-General's view that a separate budget section was not desirable.

95-16908 (E) 070695 080695

3. Many delegations stressed the importance of adhering strictly to the priorities set in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised, 1/ in particular, with regard to African economic recovery and relevant programmes, mainly programme 45. They emphasized that the proposed resources under section 7B did not adequately address the needs of Africa and felt that the resources allocated to the Secretariat units responsible for the implementation of programme 45 of the medium-term plan and for the contribution of the United Nations system to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s were not sufficient and should be increased. They underlined, in that connection, the important role of the Secretary-General in the implementation of subprogramme 1, Mobilization of resources, and in ensuring that the organizations of the United Nations system integrated Africa as a priority in their programmes of activity.

4. Some delegations stressed that Member States were faced with increasing difficulty in providing incremental resources and that consequently resources for priority activities would have to be found through internal reallocation and efficiency gains.

5. Some delegations stated that there was a discrepancy between the titles of the subprogrammes and the description of the activities thereunder. They considered, for example, that the proposed scope of activities and resources under subprogramme 3 were insufficient to have an impact in raising awareness about African economic problems.

6. Some delegations considered that the allocation of resources between subprogrammes did not fully reflect priorities within programme 45 and that increased resources should have been allocated to subprogramme 2.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. While welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General to rationalize the activities of the Organization, the Committee reaffirmed that priority should continue to be given to Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development. The Committee therefore recommended to the General Assembly that it review the level of resources devoted to the implementation of activities related to Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 46/151 of 18 December 1991 and 49/142 of 23 December 1994, and taking into account the enormous needs of Africa.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).

Conclusions and recommendations

10. The Committee was unable to reach agreement on the programme narrative of section 8. It therefore recommended that the General Assembly, when considering the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, review the programme narrative of section 8, paying due attention to the observations in the discussion part above.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1995/L.3/Add.11
7 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-fifth session
15 May-9 June 1995
Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 9. Department for Development Support and Management Services

1. At its 14th meeting, on 25 May 1995, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 9, Department for Development Support and Management Services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations supported the proposed programme of work while some delegations felt that the resources provided to the Department were not commensurate with the importance of the activities provided by it to developing countries.

3. A number of delegations felt that the potential of the Department in technical cooperation activities should be fully realized and emphasized the

95-16920 (E) 070695 080695

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importance of the coordination of its activities with those of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other agencies of the United Nations system. Other delegations underlined the need to avoid duplication of the Department's work with that of other United Nations agencies.

4. Several delegations noted the reduction of extrabudgetary resources projected for 1996-1997 and considered that the level of regular budget resources should also have been reduced proportionally. Other delegations stated that the reduction of extrabudgetary resources should have been compensated by an increase in the regular budget resources. One delegation noted that it expected the Department to be affected by the changes mandated by the General Assembly under its operational activity resolutions, which should lead to a decrease in its recruitment, project management and procurement work, and was surprised there was no reference to this in the budget. Some delegations requested the Secretariat to present a table illustrative of those activities of the programme which had been suppressed.

5. Several delegations questioned the legislative basis for the transfer of the Department's technical cooperation functions from Geneva to Vienna and the establishment of a Reconstruction and Development Unit at Vienna. Some delegations stressed that the transfer of the Unit in Vienna was justified by the proximity to the countries with economies in transition and by the savings that would be generated. Some delegations felt that the proximity factor was not important. Some delegations considered that the activities of the Unit could duplicate technical cooperation functions of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and sought assurances that duplication and overlap would be avoided. Some delegations suggested a review of the United Nations activities in the context of countries with economies in transition and the activities of other organizations in the same area in order to avoid duplication of work.

6. Some delegations felt that under the Public administration and finance programme not enough attention was given to private sector and entrepreneurship development. Other delegations considered that the programme was well-balanced.

7. Some delegations underlined that in the narrative of the Global development issues and policies programme some important issues of the medium-term plan such as rural development, and science and technology for development, had been ignored.

8. Some delegations considered that the Natural resources and energy programmes should have been presented separately in the fascicle, as they were in the medium-term plan.

9. Some delegations considered that more emphasis should have been placed on the follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that, when considering the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, it review the programme narrative of section 9, Department for Development Support and Management Services.

UNITED NATIONS **E**

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1995/L.3/Add.11/Corr.1
8 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-fifth session
15 May-9 June 1995
Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Corrigendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 9. Department for Development Support and Management Services

1. After paragraph 8, insert the following new paragraph:

"9. Some delegations recommended that paragraph 9.34 should be implemented in accordance with relevant paragraphs of the medium-term plan as revised by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/214 of 23 December 1992. The same delegations stressed that the references to sustainable development should be replaced by sustainable development in accordance with the relevant decisions of the General Assembly. The same delegations expressed the view that the activities in this section should be carried out at the request of the Governments and on the basis of their interests and national priorities."

2. Renumber the remaining paragraphs accordingly.

95-17122 (E) 080695 090695

and activities of UNCTAD. They reaffirmed their support for the important role of UNCTAD in providing research and policy analysis for the developing countries, especially in meeting the new opportunities and in responding to challenges derived from the conclusion and full implementation of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. Several delegations stressed that measures that might weaken or undermine the contribution of UNCTAD to the development process of developing countries should be prevented.

4. Some delegations welcomed the proposed reduction of resources and felt that some activities could be phased out, with further streamlining required under programme 13, Trade and development. They expressed regret that UNCTAD had failed to seize the opportunity to rationalize and better prioritize its work.

5. Some delegations welcomed the increased resources allocated for subprogramme 4, Poverty alleviation, of programme 13, but continued to be concerned at the relatively small share in the overall resource allocation for programme 13 despite the importance of the subprogramme. One delegation questioned the increase of resources in poverty eradication, which it believed was not a priority activity of UNCTAD.

6. A number of delegations emphasized the importance of effective follow-up of the outcome of the mid-term global review of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s 1/ as expressed in General Assembly resolution 49/98 of 19 December 1994, and were concerned that adequate resources might not be provided under programme 15 for that purpose.

7. A number of delegations stressed the importance of implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States 2/ and questioned whether adequate resources had been proposed for related activities.

8. Several delegations expressed support for activities related to land-locked countries, and the need for ensuring that the special problems faced by those countries were addressed and necessary resources appropriated.

9. Several delegations expressed concern at the increase of 15 per cent in resources allocated to subprogramme 8, Privatization, entrepreneurship and competitiveness; and regretted that, in relation to resources, equal treatment was not given to other subprogrammes at the same level of priorities. Some delegations welcome the increased resources in the section.

10. In response to queries raised by some delegations regarding possible overlapping of the activities of UNCTAD and WTO, the Secretariat explained their respective mandates and working relationship, which reflected the complementarity between the two bodies, which were mutually supporting and required for responding to the rapid changes in the world economy. However, some delegations remained of the view that there was potential for duplication and urged that the issue be kept under close review.

11. One delegation recommended that paragraph 10A.56 be amended as follows:

(a) In line 3, the words "entrepreneurship and the strengthening of the private sector" should read "entrepreneurship, including through privatization, and the strengthening of the public and private sectors"; (b) delete the last sentence of the paragraph since there was no legislative mandate for those functions.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 10A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, on the basis of assurances from representatives of the Secretariat that the proposed reduction in the level of resources for 1996-1997 would in no way lead to curtailment of any mandated programmes and activities.

12. The Committee also recommended that in considering the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, the General Assembly should give due attention to the opinions expressed by Member States as reflected in the discussion part of the present section.

Notes

1/ Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

2/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, 25 April-6 May 1994 (A/CONF.167/9 and Corr.1 and 2) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1995/L.3/Add.13
2 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-fifth session
15 May-9 June 1995
Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 10B. International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT

1. At its 17th meeting, on 26 May 1995, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 10B, International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

2. Support for the programme was expressed, as well as for the strengthening of activities following the conclusion of the Uruguay Round agreements.

Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 10B, International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

95-16914 (E) 070695 080695

UNITED NATIONS **E**

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1995/L.3/Add.14
7 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-fifth session
15 May-9 June 1995
Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 11. United Nations Environment Programme

1. At its 16th meeting, on 26 May 1995, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 11, United Nations Environment Programme, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

2. Several delegations noted that the Governing Council of UNEP was currently in session and that it was reviewing the programme of work of UNEP for the biennium 1996-1997. Some were of the view that the Committee should postpone its review of section 11 to a later date when it could consider it in the light of the outcome of the Council's deliberations and decisions. Others felt that the results of the Council's deliberations could be examined by the General Assembly.

95-16864 (E) 070695 080695

Conclusions and recommendations

3. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 11, United Nations Environment Programme, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

UNITED NATIONS **E**

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1995/L.3/Add.15
8 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-fifth session
15 May-9 June 1995
Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FOURTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 12. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements

1. At its 16th meeting, on 26 May 1995, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 12, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Conclusions and recommendations

2. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 12, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

95-17134 (E) 080695 090695

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1995/L.3/Add.16
7 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-fifth session
15 May-9 June 1995
Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 13. Crime control

1. At its 16th meeting, on 26 May 1995, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 13, Crime control, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed support for the objectives and the scope of activities proposed under section 13.

3. Several delegations considered that allocation of resources within the programme did not fully meet the priorities established by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and that subprogrammes 1 and 2 should receive priority attention.

4. Some delegations felt that proposal for upgrading the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch into a division and for the strengthening of staff resources was not justified by the scope of the activities envisaged for the biennium. One delegation indicated that the resources under the programme

should be strengthened through internal redeployment. Other delegations supported the proposals of the Secretary-General. One delegation noted that it did not believe seeking ways and means for the treatment of AIDS-affected prisoners was appropriate work for the Branch.

5. Some delegations rejected the link between the assistance given to Member States to combat all forms of organized transnational crime and the promotion of the fundamental principles of the maintenance of the rule of law, sound public administration and good governance (para. 13.13(d)).

6. Some delegations noted the absence of reference to the illegal traffic of children, prostitution and child pornography as new forms of transnational crime and the means that should be taken to prevent, fight and eliminate their causes.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly, when considering the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, review the programmatic narrative of section 13, crime control.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1995/L.3/Add.17
7 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-fifth session
15 May-9 June 1995
Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 14. International drug control

1. At its 16th meeting, on 26 May, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 14, International drug control, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

2. Several delegations expressed their support for the programme of activities under the section.

3. Some delegations considered that within the overall level of resources proposed for the section, increased resources should have been allocated to subprogrammes 3, 6 and 7, in view of their importance for the control of drug abuse. They also questioned the need for the resources for consultants.

4. Some delegations stressed that it was necessary to introduce more balance between the resources allocated to field activities and to administrative activities.

95-16962 (E) 080695 090695

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5. Some delegations emphasized the importance for the developing countries of easy access to the information available in the United Nations Drug Control Programme, in order for them to strengthen their capacity to control drug abuse and traffic in narcotics. Other delegations questioned the absence of resources from the regular budget for subprogramme 4, technical cooperation, and expressed concern that the foreseen activities would not be properly endorsed during the biennium under this subprogramme.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 14, International drug control, of the proposed programme budget for the 1996-1997 biennium.

UNITED NATIONS **E**

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1995/L.3/Add.18
9 June 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND
COORDINATION
Thirty-fifth session
15 May-9 June 1995
Agenda item 8

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Hisham ELZIMAITY (Egypt)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Section 15. Economic Commission for Africa

1. At its 18th meeting, on 30 May, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 15, Economic Commission for Africa, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

Discussion

2. Several delegations expressed concern at the continued decline in resources, in particular extrabudgetary resources, and the negative impact this could have on programme delivery, especially on the implementation of mandated activities, as well as technical cooperation projects.

3. Several delegations expressed the hope that within the proposed level of resources the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa would be able to implement its programmed activities, as contained in the proposed programme budget. They welcomed the reorganization of the secretariat which, with renewed efforts, they hoped would facilitate implementation of the Commission's

mandates. They expected the secretariat to compensate for the decline in extrabudgetary resources by increasing the level of resources proposed from the regular budget. They expressed the view that, in the face of the magnitude of Africa's problems and the enormous efforts the countries of the region were making, the United Nations and the international community should do more to assist Africa. Other delegations said that not enough was being done to streamline existing subprogrammes and to prioritize the use of resources. They could not therefore support the introduction of more posts to be funded from the regular budget. New requirements must be met within existing resources, including through the curtailment of redundant or ineffective programmes. Some delegations sought assurances that the decline in resources would not affect the quality of programme delivery, the Commissions's capacity for coordination and activities related to regional cooperation.

4. Some delegations called on the secretariat of ECA, taking advantage of its unique position to contribute to the development of Africa, to endeavour further to develop a new African strategy for development, promote intraregional trade and strengthen and improve its database. They also pointed to the need for ECA to evaluate its work from time to time and, among other things, to continue to implement the relevant recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the programme and administrative practices of the regional commissions (A/49/891).

5. Some delegations expressed their preference for the activities of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) to be funded through the regular budget to ascertain its viability and continuity.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 15, Economic Commission for Africa, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.